

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6349722 B1  
TITLE: Respiratory humidification system

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BSPV:

humidity sensing means which senses the humidity of said  
gases flow being  
supplied to said patient,

BSPV:

storage means which stores said alarm times for a number of  
associated sensed  
humidity values, and

BSPV:

i) receive input of said sensed humidity value from said  
humidity sensing  
means,

BSPV:

ii) obtain from said storage means the alarm time  
associated with said sensed  
humidity value,

DEPR:

Thus, at least in the preferred form, the present invention  
incorporating all  
or some of the above described features provides a  
respiratory humidification  
system which enables humidity and/or temperature control of  
the humidified  
gases to be achieved. The gases flow probed according to  
one embodiment of the  
present invention enables accurate flow rate measurements  
to be made without  
condensation affecting the sensor. In part this increased  
accuracy is also due  
to the locating system which ensures correct alignment of  
the flow and/or  
temperature probe in the gases flow. Due to the ability to  
accurately sense  
flow rate with this flow sensor, the control systems  
according to the present  
invention are able to provide a gases flow to the patient

which is controlled  
to a required humidity. The flow rate sensor also enables  
"automatic" control  
to be achieved whereby the user is not required to  
constantly monitor the  
output of the humidifier and to alter inputs to achieve  
desired changes, the  
user is merely required to inform the humidifier of the  
patient's gases  
delivery situation and the humidifier is able to provide  
the required gases  
temperature and humidity without further user input The  
humidifier also  
displays a gases temperature value which is clinically  
relevant to the gases  
reaching the patient. In addition, the respiratory  
humidification according to  
other preferred embodiments of the present invention  
encompasses various safety  
improvements over the prior art.